



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

DCCA News Release

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GOVERNOR

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STATE LAUNCHES HAWAII BUSINESS EXPRESS

(Honolulu)- Governor Linda Lingle today officially unveiled Hawaii Business Express, an exciting new service that puts Hawaii at the forefront nationally of state-of-the-art online business registration services.

“We’ve been working to make Hawaii a more business-friendly state and to reduce the cost of doing business in Hawaii ever since we took office,” said Governor Lingle. “With the launch today of Hawaii Business Express, we continue to make great strides toward those twin goals.”

The new service will enable people to start a new business in a single, online session, instead of having to apply separately with three different state departments and with the Internal Revenue Service.

“Hawaii Business Express is truly a one stop shop—instead of standing *in line* at four separate state and federal departments, people will be able to get their businesses started *on line* by visiting a single website,” Governor Lingle said.

People who use Hawaii Business Express will save money, since they will be able to take advantage of a 25-50% discount on filing fees offered by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA).

“More than half of all new companies created in Hawaii already register with DCCA through the Internet,” said Governor Lingle. “This new system takes Hawaii to another level of sophistication by allowing a business owner to also apply for identification numbers from the state Departments of Taxation and Labor and Industrial Relations, and from the IRS, in a single, online session,” she said.

With the new system, people can now use the Hawaii Business Express website to register their business or trade name with DCCA, apply for a state general excise tax license and an employee income tax withholding number from the Department of Taxation, and apply for an unemployment insurance identification number from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. The new application also links directly to the Internal Revenue Service's online system, allowing users to quickly get a Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) as soon as their state registrations are complete.

Also, people who use the website will be offered a link to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), to obtain additional information about doing business in Hawaii.

The year-long project was a collaboration of those four state departments, the IRS, and eHawaiiGov, the state internet portal. This is the first time a project of this magnitude has been undertaken jointly by these agencies to benefit the business community.

"Hawaii Business Express is a major leap forward toward a more streamlined government, with better service and less paperwork for the benefit of Hawaii's new businesses," DCCA Director Mark Recktenwald said.

Another innovation allows business owners that need help using the new online service to conduct a live chat session with a customer service representative at DBEDT's Business Action Center. By simply clicking on the live chat icon on the computer screen, users can get registration assistance from the Business Action Center or, for technical help, contact a customer service representative at eHawaiiGov. Live Help, available 8:00 a.m.-to-4:00 p.m. during state work days, is another feature designed to make Hawaii a leader in government customer service.

Hawaii Business Express can be found online at www.ehawaii.gov/bizex.

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